



Christina School District High School Summer Reading Initiative

May 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

During the summer months it is important that students continue their learning to prevent academic summer loss. The Christina School District will continue its literacy initiative for students by encouraging all students in grades 9-11 to read one or two novels during the summer months. Summer reading should be fun and enjoyable and participation will support student growth in the upcoming year.

Students may choose a book from the list or choose their own. In addition to the reading students will complete tasks that will challenge them to reflect and make connections to self and community. Book lists and projects will be explained to students by their current ELA teachers. All projects will be submitted and presented during the first marking period of the 2020-2021 academic year.

High School: Choose one or two (Honors) books to read.	
Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo Fiction in Prose (800L)	Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami’s determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself.
Bus 57 by Dashka Slater Fiction (930L)	Ripped from the national news headlines. Sasha identified as agender, went by the pronoun “they,” and was set on fire for having the naivete (or audacity) to look like a boy yet wear a skirt while riding a city bus through the streets of Oakland, California. A deep narrative that questions binary notions not only of gender, but of other culturally resonant binaries as well – of victim and perpetrator, black and white, good and evil.
One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus Suspense (HL730L)	On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Monday, he died. But on Tuesday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose?
Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on Board by Bethany Hamilton Non-fiction (960L)	They say Bethany Hamilton has saltwater in her veins. How else could one explain the passion that drives her to surf? How else could one explain that nothing—not even the loss of her arm—could come between her and the waves? That Halloween morning in Kauai, Hawaii, Bethany responded to the shark’s stealth attack with the calm of a girl with God on her side. Pushing pain and panic aside, she began to paddle with one arm, focusing on a single thought: “Get to the beach....” And when the first thing Bethany wanted to know after surgery was “When can I surf again?” it became clear that her spirit and determination were part of a greater story—a tale of courage and faith that this soft-spoken girl would come to share with the world.
When I Was the Greatest by Jason Reynolds Fiction (740L)	Ali lives in Bed-Stuy, a Brooklyn neighborhood known for guns and drugs, but he and his sister, Jazz, and their neighbors, Needles and Noodles, stay out of trouble until they go to the wrong party, where one gets badly hurt and another leaves with a target on his back.
Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi Fantasy (HL670L)	Everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were targeted and killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now, Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good. Danger lurks in Orisha, where snow leoponaires prowl and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to control her powers—and her growing feelings for the enemy.

Student Name _____

Circle the book(s) you read

- Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
- Bus 57 by Dashka Slater
- One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus
- Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on Board by Bethany Hamilton
- When I Was the Greatest by Jason Reynolds
- Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

Part I. Gist Challenge (25 pts.)

Give the gist (the main idea) of the story in exactly 25 words. Put a number above each word to count them.

Part II. Theme and Events (20 pts.)

Create a cover for your novel on a sheet of paper or construction paper for your novel in which you include images, memes or pictures that depicts the major themes and events in your novel. You must have at least 5 images. On the back of the cover explain what each visual represents.

Part III. Making Connections (20 pts.)

Write a one to two page reflection that addresses the following questions. As you write be sure to include quotes from the text to support your reflections.

- Explain your reactions to the novel. What did you enjoy, dislike, favorite characters, etc...
- What lessons did you learn from the book and how can they be applied to the world and/or other young people?
- What parallels or similarities do you see between the events and/or characters to current news and/or people in your community?

Theme and Events Visual Rubric

Total Score _____

	Above Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Below Expectations
	4	3	2	1
Required Elements	Goes over and above all the required elements stated in the directions & instructions	Includes all of the required elements as stated in the directions/instructions	Missing one or more of the required elements as stated in the directions/instructions	Several required elements are missing from the project
Creativity	Exceptionally clever and unique in showing deep understanding of the material	Thoughtfully and uniquely presented; clever at times in showing understanding of the material	A few original touches enhance the project to show some understanding of the material	Shows little creativity, originality and/or effort in understanding the material
Neatness and Attractiveness	Exceptionally attractive and particularly neat in design and layout	Attractive and neat in design and layout	Acceptably attractive but may be messy at times and/or show lack of organization	Distractingly messy or very poorly designed. Does not show pride in work.
Analysis and Explanations	Writing includes detailed and thorough explanation and analysis of selected images that clearly supports or develops the chosen themes	Writing includes explanation and analysis of selected images that supports or develops the chosen themes	Writing includes incomplete or vague explanations of images and loosely support chosen themes	Writing contains little to no explanations that support the images or themes from the text
Understanding of Content	Images shows a sophisticated understanding of the themes in the work	Images shows an understanding of the major themes of the book	Images display a somewhat limited understanding of the book. May have a few misinterpretations.	Images do not show an understanding of the text. Misses thematic points and has quite a few misinterpretations.

Reflections and Connections Writing Rubric

Total Score _____

	Above Expectations	Meets Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Below Expectations
	5	4	3	2
Reflective Thinking	The reflection demonstrates a conscious and thorough understanding of the text and clearly explains the student's own thinking about the text.	The reflection explains the text and explains the student's thinking about the text.	The reflection attempts to explain the text and the student's thinking but is vague and/or unclear.	The reflection does not demonstrate understanding of the text or the student's thinking.
Analysis	The reflection is an in-depth analysis of the themes and connections of the text to self, and world.	The reflection is an analysis of the themes and connections of the text to self and world.	The reflection attempts to analyze the themes and connections of the text to self and world but is vague and/or unclear.	The reflection does not analyze the themes and connections of the text to self and world.
Textual Evidence	The writing includes specific, relevant and convincing examples from the text to support reflections and clearly explains the relevancy.	The writing includes examples from the text to support reflections and explains the relevancy.	The writing includes incomplete or vaguely developed examples to support reflections with vague or unclear explanations.	No examples from the text are used and claims made in the writing are unsupported and irrelevant.
Conventions	Demonstrates control of the conventions with essentially no errors, even with sophisticated language.	Demonstrates control of the conventions, exhibiting occasional errors only when using sophisticated language.	Demonstrates limited control of the conventions, exhibiting frequent errors that make comprehension difficult.	Demonstrates little or no control of the conventions, making comprehension almost impossible.